

P102057PCT

The finished product from such processes are often intended for public consumption and the presence of toxic or harmful residues may present difficulties when seeking regulatory approval of the finished product.

The evaporation of the solvent from the solution of the oil, and the solvent recovery by condensation is expensive on account of the energy costs.

In WO95/26794, a process is disclosed which comprises contacting raw material with a hydrofluorocarbon-containing solvent and separating the liquor thus obtained from the raw material. The extracted components, such as pesticides, pharmaceuticals or flavoured or aromatic oils, are then obtained from the liquor by evaporation or distillation of the solvent.

The present invention thus aims to provide an economical process which is also able to provide the extracted oils in relatively high yield. It is also an aim to provide a quick extraction process which can be used commercially.

It is also an aim to provide a process which is easy to run and which does not require bulky or complicated apparatus. It is another aim to use a solvent which is not environmentally damaging and which does not have any significant photochemical ozone generating potential. Such a process aims to eliminate or reduce the losses of solvent during the extraction process. Indeed, it is a further aim to provide a process in which solvent losses are minimised so that there is substantially 100% solvent recovery.

It is also an aim to avoid the risk of fire or explosion by using a non-flammable solvent system, or at least a system having a significantly reduced risk of fire or explosion.

09890043-100201